

to these essential life tasks, service animals offer priceless companionship and unconditional love.

Madam Speaker, we are at a point in our history where the demand for our troops is high and the nature of their work puts them in grave danger on a daily basis. We must not overlook the great sacrifices that our soldiers make each and every day in the name of freedom. It is unacceptable that fewer than 75 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan have service dogs because they cannot afford them or are unaware of their benefits. Currently, such brave men and women have to wait up to two years to receive an assistance animal. Our soldiers deserve nothing less than our steadfast support and access to services that improve their quality of life.

The Tower of Hope has been dedicated to substantially improving the lives of veterans. Through tireless and devoted work, the Tower of Hope has raised funds for training assistance dogs and labored to educate people about the benefits of such animals. Most of all, the Tower of Hope has been able to award grants to veterans, allowing them to enjoy these dogs' services at no cost. This resolution lauds the outstanding work of the Tower of Hope and expresses gratitude to all the volunteers and donors who have made these programs possible through their generosity. Additionally, this resolution supports the goals and ideals of creating a Tower of Hope Day.

Madam Speaker, throughout the years, this great nation has been shaped by our willingness to help our neighbors in their greatest time of need. This giving spirit that defines our country is embodied in the Tower of Hope. We owe it to our veterans and the history of this country to support the development of a program that inspires hope and strengthens our tradition of compassion to those who need it most.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterans by supporting this resolution.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE OUTDOOR LIGHTING EFFICIENCY ACT

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2009*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, in 2007, Congressman UPTON and I introduced legislation—which became law as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act—that will revolutionize the way Americans light their homes.

Our legislation bans the famously inefficient 100-watt incandescent light bulb by 2012, phases out remaining inefficient light bulbs by 2014, and requires that light bulbs be at least three times as efficient as today's 100-watt incandescent bulb by 2020.

That bill was the product of bipartisan and bicameral efforts to forge a consensus between industry and environmental groups. The result was not only broadly accepted, it was groundbreaking. The Alliance to Save Energy estimates that the provisions will eventually save \$18 billion in energy costs every year, and prevent the emission of 100 million tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2030. That's the equivalent of taking 20 million cars off the road.

Today, we will introduce legislation that builds on this success by setting efficiency standards for outdoor lighting.

Outdoor lighting currently consumes approximately 4.4% of all the electricity produced in the United States. Most of this lighting is currently provided by outdated and inefficient technologies.

Our bill sets efficiency standards to phase out these inefficient technologies (which include incandescent and halogen lights), paving the way for more efficient and cost-effective lights (such as super-efficient light emitting diodes, or LEDs). The first standard will be set in 2011, the second in 2013, and the last in 2015. The Department of Energy would then have the authority to set rules that raise efficiency standards even further.

The bill also requires outdoor lights to come with bi-level controls, which permit users to alter the amount of light emitted. You don't need the same level of brightness at dusk as you do in the middle of the night. This is important, because these controls will give cities, counties, and other users more control over their own energy usage, empowering them to maximize their own energy conservation efforts.

Finally, like in 2007, we protect the efforts of early innovators such as California, which has already passed an outdoor lighting standard. Our bill allows California to fully implement its law before imposing nationwide preemption.

The energy savings that will flow from these efficiency improvements are stunning. A leading industry group estimates that this bill could eventually reduce energy usage from outdoor lighting by more than 25%, saving more than \$6 billion in electricity costs every year. That's the equivalent of more than 50 coal fired power stations.

And like our 2007 legislation, we are proud that this bill is a bipartisan, consensus effort forged after extensive discussions between leading environmental and industry groups.

The United States will not be able to get its arms around the twin, daunting challenges of global climate change and dependence on oil until we pursue efficiency and energy conservation wherever it is technologically feasible.

We believe that this bill, like its 2007 counterpart, is a vital and necessary piece of the solution. We urge its swift passage.

**HONORING DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ AND ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2009*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and lives of two remarkable colleagues from the South Florida Delegation, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. With unprecedented courage, a love of family and a strong commitment to service, these women have made history in our community, our state and our nation. Today I take the time to honor their work and thank them.

I had the pleasure of serving with DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ in the Florida State Leg-

islature, where she made history as the youngest woman ever elected to the Florida House at the age of 26, and later the Florida Senate. I was proud when she joined me in Congress in 2005 as the first Jewish Congresswoman ever elected from Florida. DEBBIE works tirelessly for the people of South Florida and has dedicated her life to public service. In just four short years, she has made herself known on Capitol Hill as a leader on the House Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Judiciary and as a Chief Deputy Whip for her party.

DEBBIE takes special interest in ensuring that Americans and people around the world are treated fairly and with respect. She is a leader in the Jewish Community, an advocate of human rights and has introduced and passed key legislation protecting Florida's working families, women and children. Despite many legislative victories throughout the year, DEBBIE's greatest accomplishment is her family. Aside from prioritizing the needs of her constituents, she also makes life at home a priority as a loving wife to Steve Schultz, her husband of 17 years, and an exceptional mother of twins Jake and Rebecca and youngest daughter Shelby.

We recently learned that DEBBIE successfully battled breast cancer after finding a lump during a routine self-examination last year. In an effort to create awareness of breast cancer among young woman she has shared her story and introduced the EARLY Act, legislation that develops and implements a national education campaign to increase awareness of the threats posed by breast cancer in young women of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds. DEBBIE's story is an inspiration to women across the nation and she represents what can be accomplished through hard work, dedication and perseverance. She is undoubtedly one of the most influential Members of Congress and I know that a bright future lies ahead.

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN has been a public servant for more than two decades and this year marks her 20th in the United States Congress. In 1989, she was the first Hispanic woman and first Cuban-American elected to the House of Representatives. She began her career as an educator in Miami, FL and was elected to the Florida State Legislature in 1982, becoming the first Hispanic woman in the Florida House. She later served in the Florida Senate.

ILEANA's list of accomplishments runs long, but she is best known for ensuring that the needs of the diverse community she represents are met. She takes a particular interest in education, safety for Florida's families and protecting our environment. In her role as the Ranking Member on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs she has worked to advance democracy around the world, promote human rights and improve our nation's relationships abroad. She continues to be a strong voice for the oppressed people of Cuba and an advocate for peace in the Middle East. In 2008 ILEANA's work was recognized by the State of Florida when she was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame, a great honor in our state.

Alongside a successful 25 year career in public service, has been Ileana's dedication to her family. She is a loving wife to husband Dexter Lehtinen, mother of Amanda Michelle and Patricia Marie and stepmother of Katharine and Douglas. By her side each day are